

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 5, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. July 5th 1896. My dear Alec:

A few days more and we will have been married nineteen years. Does that not seem a long while? They have been after all very happy years, thanks to your constant goodness to me. I wish I had been a better helpmeet to you, but at least I love you.

It is storming again, and I took this Sunday of all others to go to church in. It was absurd to let a dozen pleasant Sundays pass by and then go on a stormy one, but it was not very cloudy at first and the water so smooth I thought it would be pleasant. But it poured harder and harder and Mrs. Gwillem persuaded me to wait at the rectory and have dinner, which we did only to find afterward that our boatmen had waited for us outside all through the rain.

I suppose you had a fine 4th. We spent ours very quietly only driving with the little McCurdy boys to cranberry pond where they took off their shoes and stockings and danced about on the bog, pulling water flowers. The bog swayed and gave under their weight, but did not let them down below their knees, and even if it had they are good swimmers so I thought they were all right. Then we came home and they and I washed the supper dishes while all the servants went off for a drive. I hear that they hung colored lanterns on the carriage and drove through the town in style celebrating the Fourth. Only Charles by the way is an American.

Now good night. How hard you are working my dear. If I felt I could save you anything I would so gladly be with you, but 2 there is so much to be done here.

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Much love to my little girl, tell her to be careful she is neat and on the watch to help others.
I shall be so glad to see her.

Ever yours,